



GUIDELINES

GRADUATE STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS תשפ"ו 2025-2026

Call for Applications: December 2024

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Mission

The Azrieli Fellows Program was established in 2007 to create a network of leading academics and professionals committed to raising Israel's profile while maintaining strong academic links between Israel and the rest of the world. The Program offers generous funding for the three critical stages of an academic career through its Graduate Studies Fellowships, International Postdoctoral Fellowships and Early Career Faculty Fellowships.

In keeping with its core values, the program nurtures interdisciplinary and cross-cultural exchange, leadership training, community engagement, professional mentorship, and a growing alum network. Azrieli Fellows are a community of outstanding scientists and scholars with the unique potential to perform groundbreaking research, alongside an intellectual curiosity that transcends their field of study.

By enabling multidisciplinary research and the cross-pollination of ideas, the Azrieli Fellows Program breaks down silos, encourages creative thinking, and drives out-of-the-box solutions to some of the world's most pressing issues.

The following guidelines outline details of the Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellowships.

Who Can Become an Azrieli Fellow?

Graduate students at Israeli academic institutions in the fields and at the degree levels outlined in these guidelines are eligible to apply to the Azrieli Fellows Program. Applicants must be nominated by one of the following accredited academic institutions:

1. Bar-Ilan University
2. Ben-Gurion University
3. Hebrew University of Jerusalem
4. Reichman University
5. Technion-Israel Institute of Technology
6. Tel Aviv University
7. University of Haifa
8. Weizmann Institute of Science

Candidates for the Azrieli Fellowships are assessed based on their past academic performance and potential to make cutting-edge contributions to their respective research fields. Aspects of personal merit and leadership abilities are also considered, without regard to race, religion, gender, ethnicity or age.

Overview of the Fellowship

Number of Fellowships Offered

The Azrieli Fellows Program offers up to 25 fellowships every year in the academic fields and disciplines, as outlined in the chart below.

Duration of the Fellowship

1. The Azrieli Fellowships commence in October 2025. The duration of the fellowships is outlined in the table below.
2. The Azrieli Fellows Program reserves the right to grant **less than** the indicated number of fellowships in a given year.
3. Fellowships are offered for **up to the number of years listed below**; the fellowship duration may change in accordance with academic institution bylaws and procedures.
4. The Foundation may consider requests to extend an Azrieli Fellowship beyond the granted period. For information, Fellows may turn to the Fellows Program management.

| Discipline / Field | Number of Fellowships offered each year | Duration of Fellowships |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| Natural Sciences (PhD) | 10 | 3 years |
| Education (PhD) | 2 | 3 years |
| Social Sciences (PhD) | 4 | 3 years |
| Humanities (PhD) | 4 | 3 years |
| Architecture (PhD) | 1 | 3 years |
| Architecture & Urban Planning (MA) | 4 | 1+1 years |
| Total | Up to 25 | |

Value of the Fellowship

| For PhD students in Natural Sciences | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Basic Fellowship | NIS 108,000 |
| Research Expenses | Up to NIS 20,000 |
| Annual Total | Up to NIS 128,000 |

| For PhD Students in Social Sciences, Humanities, Education, Architecture | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Basic Fellowship | NIS 108,000 |
| Research Expenses | Up to NIS 14,000 |
| Annual Total | Up to NIS 122,000 |

| For MA Students in Architecture and Urban Planning | |
|--|-------------------------|
| Basic Fellowship | NIS 72,000 |
| Research Expenses | Up to NIS 14,000 |
| Annual Total | Up to NIS 86,000 |

Additional Income Policy

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program provides a generous stipend intended to enable students to focus solely on their research at the academic institution.
2. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the student's receipt of supplementary funding in accordance with the academic institution's policies.
3. The Azrieli Foundation has no objection to the student receiving additional research grants for conference travel & research expenses.
4. The Program will allow employment directly connected to the student's training (e.g. teaching, tutoring, or other research-related roles) for up to four hours per week, subject to the Foundation's approval.

Eligibility Conditions per Discipline

The following pages outline eligibility conditions for the fellowships offered by the Azrieli Fellows Program. Allowances are made for parental or medical leave and considered for other career interruptions, including war-related delays.

Applicants may only apply once for the Azrieli Graduate Studies Fellowship.

Natural Sciences

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program will accept nominations of outstanding PhD students who perform **cutting-edge scientific research, basic or applied, in the STEM fields.**
2. Students nominated for a *Clore Scholarship* or *Adams Fellowship* **may not be** nominated for an Azrieli Fellowship in the same year.
3. Candidates will be **eligible** for nomination by their academic institution if they have:
 - a) **Submitted a Research Proposal** to the academic institution's authorities **by February 24, 2025.** Research Proposals do not require approval at the time of application; however, they must be approved no later than **October 1, 2025.**
 - b) **Started their PhD** program track **after October 1, 2023.** This condition is relevant for students in a Regular PhD track, as well as in PhD tracks defined as "Combined" or "Direct," in which the master's or PhD period of study is shortened.

Direct track PhD students, i.e. PhD candidates who did not engage in Master's studies, will be eligible to apply if they started their PhD **after October 1, 2022.**

| PhD Track | Definition | Official Starting Date of PhD Studies |
|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| Regular | Regular: BSc -> MSc -> PhD | After October 1, 2023 |
| Combined (also referred to as " <u>Direct</u> " in some institutions) | Combined: BSc -> MSc -> PhD (shortened MSc or PhD period) | After October 1, 2023 |
| Direct | BSc -> PhD (no MSc) | After October 1, 2022 |

Eligibility Conditions per Discipline (continued)

Social Sciences, Humanities, Education

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program will accept nominations of outstanding PhD students (in Regular, Combined or Direct tracks) who perform **cutting-edge research in the Social Sciences, Humanities and Education**.
2. Candidates will be eligible for nomination by their academic institution if they have **submitted a research proposal** to the academic institution's authorities **between February 1, 2024, and February 24, 2025**.
3. Research Proposals do not require approval at the time of application; however, they must be approved no later than **October 1, 2025**.

Architecture (PhD)

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program will accept nominations of outstanding PhD students from the **Technion** Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning and the **Tel Aviv University** Azrieli School of Architecture who perform **cutting-edge research** that contributes to the field of **Architecture**.
2. Candidates are **eligible** for nomination by their academic institution if they:
 - a) Have an **approved Research Proposal** by February 24, 2025.
 - b) Have a supervisor who holds an academic degree in the field of architecture.

Eligibility Conditions per Discipline (continued)

Architecture and Urban Planning (Master's)

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program will accept nominations of Master's students from the **Technion** Faculty of Architecture and Town Planning and the **Tel Aviv University** Azrieli School of Architecture who perform **outstanding research** that contributes to the field of **Architecture**.
2. Each institution will be asked to nominate **up to four nominees**.
3. Candidates are **eligible** for nomination if they:
 - a. Have **completed an undergraduate degree in Architecture** at an accredited academic institution.
 - b. Are enrolled in a **research master's program (with thesis)**.
 - c. Have completed **no more than three semesters of studies by March 2025**.
 - d. Have a supervisor who holds an academic degree in Architecture.

Number of Nominations per Academic Institution

Each academic institution may submit **up to the number of nominations outlined in the following chart.**

| Discipline | Maximum Number of Nominations per academic institution | Maximum Number of Candidates | Total Number of Fellowships Offered |
|-------------------------|--|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Natural Sciences | 6 | 48 | 10 |
| Education | 2 | 14 | 2 |
| Social Sciences | 4 | 28 | 4 |
| Humanities | 4 | 32 | 4 |
| Architecture (PhD) | 2 | 4 | 1 |
| Architecture (Master's) | 4 | 8 | 4 |

In addition to the above, **the Azrieli Fellows Program will accommodate applicants who were unable to apply for the 2024–2025 academic year due to the “Iron Swords” war.** We will accept applicants in this category as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|--------------|
| Natural Sciences | 2 applicants |
| Social Sciences | 1 applicant |
| Humanities | 2 applicants |
| Education | 1 applicant |
| Architecture (PhD) | 1 applicant |

All the above must meet the following criteria:

- The applicant should have been eligible for the 2024–2025 selection process but was unable to apply due to war-related constraints
- The applicant must have at least one year remaining to the PhD degree as of October 2025.

How to Apply

1. The Azrieli Fellows Program management sends out **Calls for Applications, Program Guidelines and Application Forms** to the Academic Secretariat or Graduate School of all participating institutions. This information is then distributed to the relevant faculties and departments.
2. Candidates must be nominated by the Rector of the academic institution or by an academic official of a similar position. Nominations and coordination of applications will be processed through the Academic Secretariat or the Graduate School of the institution at which candidates are enrolled.
3. Students interested in applying should approach their departments or faculties and may also approach the Academic Secretariat or Graduate School administration at their academic institution. Guidelines may be downloaded from the Azrieli Foundation website at www.azrielifoundation.org/fellows .
4. Candidates will undergo an internal nomination process. The academic institution will instruct nominees regarding the submission process of their applications to the Azrieli Fellows Program. **Candidates are advised to check with their academic institutions regarding internal deadlines for submitting application materials.**
5. The Azrieli Foundation will accept applications until **February 25, 2025**.
6. The selection process will occur between March and June 2025. Candidates may be invited for an interview in May 2025.

Obligations of the Azrieli Fellow

To maintain good standing, Azrieli Fellows are expected to fulfill the following obligations and will be required to sign a commitment to this effect:

1. Academic Excellence

Fellows are obligated to maintain academic excellence throughout the Program – as defined by the academic institution in which they are enrolled.

2. Progress Reports

Regular progress reports will be submitted by the Fellow to the Program Management and authorized by the Fellow's academic supervisor.

3. Community Engagement

Azrieli Fellows are expected to volunteer 40 hours over the course of the academic year in an a-political, non-partisan and non-proselytizing activity or program to be approved in advance and in writing by the Azrieli Fellows Program management. The Foundation will cover travel expenses related to the volunteer activity.

4. Participation in Program-sponsored Events

To foster the exchange of ideas between Azrieli Fellows and maintain a sense of group identification, the Program will sponsor several events during the academic year where Fellows can socialize and share their research and study activities. Some of these events might include a 'Fellows Forum' series (see section 5 below), the annual opening and closing celebrations, informal dinners, seminars and workshops.

5. The Azrieli Fellows Forums

The Azrieli Fellows Forums are held several times a year, allowing Fellows to socialize and share their research and study activities in a multidisciplinary environment. At these meetings, Fellows present lectures in English on elements of their research.

6. Publications

Any written work published by the Fellows while in the Program (e.g., articles published in journals, etc.) must acknowledge the support of the Azrieli Foundation in a written dedication. Fellows will be asked to notify Azrieli Fellows Program administrators regarding all publications produced during their Fellowship.

7. Alumni Activities

Fellows will be asked to act as ambassadors for the Azrieli Fellows Program – to talk about their experiences, publicize the Fellowship to their colleagues and potential candidates, and participate in information sessions for new candidates. Alums will be invited to attend ongoing program activities and events and may be called on to assist in the selection processes of incoming fellows.

Obligations of the Academic Institution

Relating to the Nomination of Candidates

1. To ensure that nominees adhere to the eligibility conditions stipulated in these guidelines.
2. To submit to the Azrieli Fellows Program no more than the number of nominees requested in the guidelines.
3. To submit to the Azrieli Fellows Program no more than one nominee per supervisor.

Relating to Azrieli Fellows studying at the Academic Institution

4. To ensure Azrieli Fellows are exempt from tuition and other institutional payments.
5. To ensure that any employment taken on by an Azrieli Fellow within the academic institution directly connects to her/his academic training and does not exceed four teaching hours per week. The academic institution will ensure that any requests for additional hours are brought to the Fellows Program management for consideration.
6. To ensure that the academic supervisor regularly reports on the Azrieli Fellow's progress via the Academic Progress Report provided by Fellows Program management.
7. To enable Azrieli Fellows to participate in program-sponsored events during the academic year.
8. The academic institution shall advise its Azrieli Fellows to hold appropriate health insurance policies throughout their fellowship.
9. To report on any halting of research that lasts more than six months.
10. The academic institution will be the pipeline through which payment is transferred from the Azrieli Foundation to the Azrieli Fellows. No overhead will be paid to the academic institution. The academic institution will not deduct any amount from the Fellowship payment without the agreement of the Azrieli Fellows Program management.

Timetable

| | |
|--|--------------------------|
| Deadline for submission of institution-approved applications to the Azrieli Foundation* | February 25, 2025 |
| Selection Committee meetings and interviews | March-June 2025 |
| Winners to be announced | June 2025 |
| Program starts | October 2025 |

***Candidates will be required by their academic institution to submit their applications internally (within the academic institution) before the above-mentioned date.**